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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,435	11/30/2006	Noriyuki Abe	062028	8461
38834 7590 05/15/2008 WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER AVERY, BRIDGET D	
			ART UNIT 3618	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/15/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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MAILED  
FROM DIRECTORS OFFICE

Westerman, Hattori, Daniels & Adrian, LLP  
1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

MAY 14 2008

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re application of  
Noriyuki Abe et al.  
Application No. 10/567,435  
Filed: November 30, 2006  
For: HYBRID VEHICLE

: DECISION ON REQUEST TO  
: PARTICIPATE IN PATENT  
: PROSECUTION HIGHWAY  
: PROGRAM AND PETITION  
: TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER

This is a decision on the request to participate in the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program and the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.102(d), filed March 31, 2008, to make the above-identified application special.

The request and petition are **GRANTED**.

A grantable request to participate in the PPH pilot program and petition to make special require:

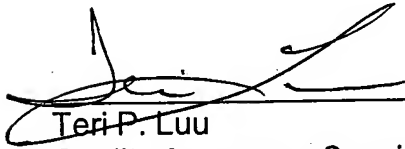
- (1) The U.S. application must validly claim priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) to one or more applications filed in the JPO;
- (2) Applicant must submit a copy of the allowable/patentable claim(s) from the JPO application(s) along with an English translation thereof and a statement that the English translation is accurate;
- (3) All the claims in the U.S. application must sufficiently correspond or be amended to sufficiently correspond to the allowable/patentable claim(s) in the JPO application(s);
- (4) Examination of the U.S. application has not begun;
- (5) Applicant must submit a copy of all the Office actions from each of the JPO application(s) containing the allowable/patentable claim(s) along with an English translation thereof and a statement that the English translation is accurate;
- (6) Applicant must submit an IDS listing the documents cited by the JPO examiner in the JPO Office action along with copies of documents except U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications; and
- (7) The required petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h).

In light of submission of a copy of the Japanese Office action dated May 17, 2006, the request to participate in the PPH Pilot program and petition now comply with the above requirements. Accordingly, the above-identified application has been accorded "special" status.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Teri P. Luu at 571-272-7045.

All other inquiries concerning the examination or status of the application should be directed to the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system.

The application will be forwarded to the examiner for action on the merits commensurate with this decision.

  
Teri P. Luu  
Quality Assurance Specialist  
Technology Center 3600

tpl: 04/03/08